

USA Comments to the Aquatic Animal Health
Standards Commission - February 2015 Report

CHAPTER 1.1.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES, AND PROVISION
OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Article 1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code* and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the OIE Organic Statutes, every Member Country of the OIE shall recognise the right of the *Headquarters* to communicate directly with the *Competent Authority* of its *territory* or *territories*.

All *notifications* and all information sent by the OIE to the *Competent Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all *notifications* and all information sent to the OIE by the *Competent Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

Article 1.1.2.

- 1) Member Countries shall make available to other Member Countries, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important *diseases* of *aquatic animals* and their *pathogenic agents* and to assist in achieving better world-wide control of these *diseases*.
- 2) To achieve this, Member Countries shall comply with the *notification* requirements specified in Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.4.
- 3) To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, reports shall conform as closely as possible to the current OIE *disease* reporting format.
- 4) The detection of the *pathogenic agent* of a *listed disease* in an *aquatic animal* should be reported, even in the absence of clinical signs. Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between *pathogenic agents* and clinical *disease* is constantly developing and that the presence of an infectious agent does not necessarily imply the presence of clinical *disease*, Member Countries shall ensure through their reports that they comply with the spirit and intention of point 1 above.
- 5) In addition to notifying findings in accordance with Article 1.1.3. and 1.1.4., Member Countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of *diseases*. Information shall include possible *quarantine* measures and restrictions on the movement of *aquatic animals*, *aquatic animal products*, *biological products* and other miscellaneous objects which could by their nature be responsible for transmission of *disease*. In the case of *diseases* transmitted by vectors, the measures taken against such vectors shall also be specified.

Article 1.1.3.

The *Competent Authority* shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters* of the OIE:

- 1) in accordance with relevant provisions in the *disease-specific* chapters, *notification*, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) or by fax or e-mail within 24 hours of any of the following events:
 - a) first occurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;

- b) re-occurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* following the final report that declared the *outbreak* ended;
- c) first occurrence of a new strain of a *pathogenic agent* of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
- d) a sudden and unexpected change in the distribution or increase in incidence or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality caused by the *pathogenic agent* of a *listed disease*, present within a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
- e) occurrence of a *listed disease* in a new host species.

In deciding whether findings justify immediate *notification* (within 24 hours), Member Countries must ensure that they comply with the obligations of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. (especially Article 5.1.1.), to report developments that may have implications for *international trade*;

- 2) weekly reports subsequent to a *notification* under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of the event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *disease* has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable so that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the Member Country to the OIE; for each event notified, a final report on the event should be submitted;
- 3) six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of *listed diseases* and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries;
- 4) annual reports concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.

Article 1.1.4.

Competent Authorities shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters*:

- 1) a *notification* through WAHIS or by fax or e-mail, when an *emerging disease* has been detected in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
- 2) periodic reports subsequent to a *notification* of an *emerging disease*, ~~as described under point 4~~. These should continue until:
 - a) the *disease* has been eradicated; or
 - b) the situation has become sufficiently stable; or
 - c) sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for listing.

Delete: as described under point 1

Rationale: Redundant statement

Add: "has"

Rationale: English Syntax

Article 1.1.5.

- 1) The *Competent Authority* of a country in which an *infected zone* or *compartment* was located shall inform the *Headquarters* when this *zone* or *compartment* is free from the *disease*.
- 2) An *infected zone* or *compartment* for a particular *disease* shall be considered as such until freedom from the *disease* has been demonstrated in accordance with recommendations in Chapter 1.4. and the relevant recommendations described in the *disease-specific chapters* in Sections 8 to 11 have been performed.~~a period exceeding the *infective period* specified in the *Aquatic Code* has elapsed after the last reported case and when full prophylactic and appropriate *aquatic animal* health measures have been applied to prevent possible reappearance or spread of the *disease*. These measures will be found in detail in various~~

Delete: "a period exceeding the *infective period* specified in the *Aquatic Code* has elapsed after the last reported case and when full prophylactic and appropriate *aquatic animal* health measures have been applied to prevent possible reappearance or spread of the *disease*. These measures will be found in detail in various *disease-specific chapters* of the *Aquatic Code*."

Add: "freedom from the *disease* has been demonstrated in accordance with recommendations in Chapter 1.4. and the relevant recommendations described in the *disease-specific chapters* in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* Sections 8 to 11 have been performed."

Rationale: This statement is less wordy and add specific references within the OIE code chapters for consistency.

~~*disease-specific chapters* of the *Aquatic Code*.~~

- 3) A Member Country may be considered to regain freedom from a specific *disease* when all relevant conditions given in the *Aquatic Code* have been fulfilled.
- 4) The *Competent Authority* of a Member Country which sets up one or several *free zones* or *free compartments* shall inform the *Headquarters*, giving necessary details, including the criteria on which the free status is based, the requirements for maintaining the status and indicating clearly the location of the *zones* or *compartments* on a map of the territory of the Member Country.

Article 1.1.6.

- 1) Although Member Countries are only required to notify *listed diseases*, and *emerging diseases*, they are encouraged to inform the OIE of other important *aquatic animal* health events.
 - 2) The *Headquarters* shall communicate by e-mail or World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID) to *Competent Authorities* all *notifications* received as provided in Articles 1.1.2. to 1.1.5. and other relevant information.
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